

1 REMARKS

2 Status of Application

3 Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 11-30 are now pending in the present application. Applicant has
4 amended Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 11-17, has cancelled Claims 5, 9, and 10, and has added new
5 Claims 18-30.

6 Patentability of Claims

7 Based upon the prior art cited in the parent of the present application, it is apparent that the
8 claims in the current application are clearly patentable. Applicant had amended the claims so that
9 Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 11-17 generally address maintaining a user's status in a database to determine
10 whether to access a next batch of data when a second request is received, based upon a maximum
11 value of at least one field in a first batch of database records that were received. Claims 18-30 are
12 directed to maintaining a user's status in a database to determine whether to access a previous batch
13 of data when a second request is received, based upon a minimum value of at least one field in a first
14 batch of database records that were received.

15 The Examiner is requested to review this Preliminary Amendment and to pass the application
16 to issue without delay. If any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's
17 attorney as the number listed below.

18 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Ronald M. Anderson
21 Registration No. 28,829

22 RMA:lrg

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24 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed
25 envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O.
Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 30, 2004.

26 Date: March 30, 2004

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